(v) Design support and provision of technological inputs through a number of Weavers' Service Centres in the Country;

(vi) Assistance to weavers to enable them to form indusrial type cooperatives;

(vii) Market Development Assistance Scheme to give market support to handloom products.

POWERLOOM SECTOR

(i) The Department of Banking, Financial Institutions and NABARD had been requested to provide adequate credit to meet the needs of modernisation and working capital of Powerloom Sector.

(ii) The State Governments had been requested to encourage the promotion of Powerloom Cooperative Societies along with making contribution to their share capital so as to facilitate provision of financial assistance and marketing facilities to Powerloom Sector.

(iii) Government had set up 13 Powerloom Service Centres under the Office of the Textile Commissioner all over the country for conducting regular training programmes for weavers development, of new designs, improvement of quality of weaving, improvement of maintenance of looms besides providing free testing facilities for yarns and fabrics etc. These centres are being restructured for making them more effective and responsive. Sixteen such centres are running under various Textile Research Associations. In all there are 29 PSCs.

MILL SECTOR

(i) For increasing modernisation of Mills Sector Government had set up Textile Modernisation Fund of Rs. 750 crores.

(ii) Import of modern machinery is allowed under OGL.

(iii) The present policy of liberalisation is expected to improve the technology and efficiency of Textile Sector.

(iv) 9 Textile Researach Associations are working under Ministry of Textiles towards technology upgradation and making the Textiles Industry effective.

Delinking of exports with DGS&D for up-country juti mills

1768. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to delink exports with DGS&D orders atleast for up-country jute mills;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government are aware that such up-country mills may close down resulting in heavy unemployment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Linking of DGS&D orders with export obligation is not likely to lead to closure of any mill. Jute mills which do not presently have export production have been allowed the flexibility of purchasing the export obligation from the market. Mills which cannot afford to pay the premium on purchase of such export obligation have been advised to formulate plans of action to diversify their production and reorient it towards exports. Government will only consider and take appropriate action on any request for exemption from any jute mills if the latter are unable to fulfill the export obligation despite their best efforts.